PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

BULLETIN] FEBRUARY 1, 1941 [No. 29

LECTURE XXIX.

JAPAN.

THE war has now reached a phase when an attempt may be made to estimate the chances of its spreading to the Far East. The failure of Hitler's grandiose schemes in the west, the pricking of the Italian bubble by the magnificent display of the Greeks and the success of General Wavell's campaign in Libya, have involved Hitler in what the Chinese would call a considerable loss of face. It is therefore but natural that he should try to restore that badly battered face of his with external aid.

Such aid he has to seek elsewhere than in EUROPE: for Mussolini has proved a broken reed; he has been tried drunk and he has been tried sober; either way there does not appear to be anything to him. In the situation—almost Gilbertian—produced by that dramatic collapse, Hitler is compelled to turn to his latest-joined partner in the Axis, JAPAN. He would like JAPAN to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for him, and the question of the hour is, will she try?

JAPAN formally announced her adhesion to the Axis in September last. Hitler had lost the Battle of BRITAIN; the military defeat had to be compensated in some wise and a diplomatic triumph was indicated

So Ribbentrop set to work, and employed all his arts to rope in new adherents, and among them JAPAN. JAPAN yielded to his blandishments and was established as the far eastern outpost of Nazism. An immediate enhancement of Nazi prestige was the consequence. GERMANY and ITALY were to be the 'leaders' in EUROPE ; JAPAN was to assume a similar *rôle* in ASIA. The three countries agreed to support one another in the event of aggression or attack by any power not involved in the war which was going on in EUROPE or in the war between CHINA and JAPAN. There was much jubilation in BERLIN, though it was slightly tempered by doubts as to how RUSSIA would react to the pact.

The enlargement of the Axis foreshadowed an extension of the area of conflict. In due course, the war might be expected to spread far eastwards and ultimately embrace the entire surface of the earth. It held other and more immediate threats as well. JAPAN'S cherished and admitted hope was the hegemony of ASIA, if not of the whole world, and partnership with the Axis gave her the chance for which she had been waiting for over a generation. For the 'New Order' was to extend to the 'Greater Asiatic living space' as well.

What the New Order really meant is pretty obvious. It was a simple arrangement for the partition of the world, a game at which ambitious monarchs have played in the past and lost. GERMANY was to get NIGERIA, the French and the Belgian CONGO, RHODESIA and SOUTH AFRICA; ITALY'S share of the 'swag' was to be EGYPT and the French Mediterranean colonies, while JAPAN was to be rewarded with CHINA, the Dutch EAST INDIES and French INDO-CHINA. JAPAN was pleased. For over a generation she had been able to mask her real design by means of trade and political agreements but now it stood revealed in all its nakedness. At the moment, she may be satisfied with the Dutch EAST INDIES and the French possessions in INDO-CHINA, but any one with eyes to see can perceive that the ultimate challenge is to the English-speaking nations of the world. If the pact should proceed according to plan, JAPAN will become unquestioned mistress of the Pacific. Such a situation would gravely imperil AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND and also British COLUMBIA, and the states of WASHINGTON, OREGON and CALIFORNIA in the American Union. Indeed the UNITED STATES also had everything to fear from Japanese domination of the Pacific. It was a direct threat to British and American territories from ALASKA to the ANTIPODES.

AMERICA and BRITAIN reacted instantly to the new danger. The representatives of both the countries met in conference at WASHINGTON and devised measures for their common safety. Already there was an excellent understanding between the two countries; there had never been any doubt about which side of the fence AMERICA would come down on, but the pact accelerated the pace of effective collaboration. The lease of British naval bases and the transfer of certain U. S. destroyers had previously been agreed upon and further steps were taken to implement them. The Washington Conference must have sent cold shivers down Hitler's spine, even if JAPAN could affect to belittle it.

The chief factors complicating the problem which confronts JAPAN are RUSSIA, CHINA and the UNITED STATES of AMERICA. And on the resolution of the tangle depends the contribution which JAPAN will be able to make to the attainment of the Axis' goal.

When JAPAN joined the Axis, RUSSIA was not pleased. This was a fact, in spite of the express declaration in the pact that it would in no way affect 'the political status existing at present between any one of the three countries on the one hand and the U. S. S. R. on the other'. The Nazis had their own misgivings and their propaganda machine got busy and made almost hourly pronouncements in the press and on the radio that the alliance was not directed against RUSSIA. It was AMERICA, not RUSSIA, who was being warned, the AMERICA that was flirting with BRITAIN and interfering in regions and problems that did not concern her. Whether Russian fears were allayed or not, we cannot say; but, at any rate, RUSSIA caustically drew attention to the Anti-Comintern pact which the same three countries had signed not so very long ago! It was clear therefore that RUSSIA was not to be bamboozled; she would watch, snarling or smiling as the occasion (and self-interest) warranted, and perhaps get her own scores with JAPAN settled without having to fight.

Ever since JAPAN joined the Axis, there has been talk of a Soviet-Japanese pact. When Lieut-General Tategawa went as Japanese ambassador to the Soviet, it was expected that a Soviet-Japanese non-agression pact would be very quickly signed. There have been several meetings between him and M. Molotov but the fact remains that no pact has yet been produced. JAPAN is prepared to make far-reaching concessions in return for Soviet recognition of Manchukuo and the

stoppage of Soviet help to CHINA, but so far the Soviet has shown no disposition to bite. The Russians are realists in politics and if they have not so far nibbled at what seems a really tempting bait, it can only be because they reckon that delay will bring even more tempting offers or perhaps that, when it comes to a final issue, JAPAN herself will hesitate to strike.

Moreover, the Soviet have a deep-rooted distrust of the Japanese. Relations between the two have been strained for many years now. It was touch-and-go in the springs of 1932 and 1933; timely American recognition of the Soviet Union tended to diminish Soviet fears, but these were renewed when GERMANY proceeded to sign what was believed to be a secret agreement with JAPAN, and followed it up with supplies of war material including air experts. In 1935 the two countries came near enough together to sign an agreement by which JAPAN purchased the Soviet-owned Chinese Eastern Railway. The Soviet were satisfied that JAPAN had designs on the south only, and that she would leave the Soviet Maritime Provinces in the north alone. The Japanese, however, were soon trekking steadily across the plains of Inner Mongolia and this was hardly calculated to reassure the Soviet. Further, JAPAN, plainly with military motives, was covering MANCHURIA and the JEHOL province with a network of railways, thus further strengthening Soviet suspicions. Hence, the presence of a strong Soviet force in the FAR EAST prepared to meet any eventuality.

CHINA will probably be the determining factor in the line which JAPAN may feel called upon to take. The country has been ravaged for three years now, and its condition is similar to that of occupied FRANCE, but the Chinese still have their tails up. At the outset, the Chinese seemed to be in very bad case but they have adjusted themselves to the new circumstances so successfully that the boot now is on the other leg. The move of the Chinese government to CHUNGKING in the west has proved a blessing in disguise. The west, which one commentator in the B. B. C. described as the Golden West, is said to contain enormous deposits of coal and iron. It has an inexhaustible supply of wood-oil and is rich in all the requirements of a would-be industrial nation. There are internal disputes between the Kuomintang and the younger party men (many of whom have a distinct communistic bias) but they have succeeded in closing their ranks and presenting a united front to the aggressor. The Chinese are an inoffensive people, walking in the

ways of their forefathers and minding their own business, and nothing which the Japanese have done has let them down so badly in the world's estimation as their wholly unprovoked invasion of such a nation. China has the sympathy and admiration of the world, of which there is very practical expression in the abundant and daily-increasing supplies of war material reaching Western CHINA from BRITAIN and AMERICA.

One of the first fruits of the meeting of British and American representatives at WASHINGTON after JAPAN'S adhesion to the Axis was the reopening of the Burma road to CHINA. The closing of the road earlier, as a concession to Japanese sentiment, had not been at all popular in this country, and there were several in BRITAIN who viewed it with equal disfavour. The subsequent decision to reopen it was hailed with satisfaction as an act of the barest justice to our friends and next-door neighbours, the Chinese. The road, officially known as the Burma-Yunnan road, was reopened at midnight on October 17, and the venture has been an unqualified success. Professor Beasley of RANGOON says, "The trade now goes on from the rail head at LASHIO and in the eleven months from April 1 to the end of February 1940, commodities to the value of £ 2,000,000 passed over to the road from BURMA to CHINA, in addition to a large volume of munitions and war supplies, the figures for which are not disclosed by the Government of BURMA. A great variety of items is included in this trade, the most important single branch of which consists of motor omnibuses, vans and lorries, with spare parts and pneumatic tyres and tubes, which account for nearly half of the total trade. Other important items include petroleum, cotton-piece-goods and blankets, machinery of all kinds, and hardware, steel bars and drugs." A Burmese mission is now on a visit to CHUNKING where they have been conferring with the Chinese Government, and a general speed-up of traffic along this sector is anticipated. JAPAN has not exactly been having an easy time in CHINA, and the aid which CHINA will now increasingly receive from the British is not going to make her position any easier.

The reactions of BRITAIN and AMERICA to the formation of the BERLIN-ROME-TOKYO Axis were a slap in the face to Hitler. He has been trying to bluff, cajole and frighten AMERICA into withholding supplies to BRITAIN, but his tactics have met with no success. Frustrated and angry, Hitler is now deliberately attempting to create

trouble in the Far East. He obviously wishes to involve AMERICA in a quarrel with JAPAN, so that she may be compelled to send to her Pacific bases the larger part, if not all, of the materials and munitions which she is now sending across the Atlantic. If he could keep AMERICA fully occupied in the Pacific his problem of defeating ENGLAND in EUROPE would be simplified. Now, if JAPAN is to embark upon the adventure which Hitler is planning for her, it seems likely that she will bite off a great deal more than she can chew. She has already been trying to have her expansionist way in INDO-CHINA, but the French colonists have shown more 'guts' than their compatriots at home. She then made trouble between THAILAND and INDO-CHINA and we have not yet seen the end of that affair. THAILAND possibly has a valid claim to a part of INDO-CHINA—the frontier territory along the Mekong river but she has made it backed up by JAPAN! *Pourparlers* are taking place between the two countries and it is quite within the bounds of possibility that their disputes may be settled by Japanese mediation. If that happens it may be a feather in the Japanese cap but it will not sensibly reduce JAPAN's already heavy commitments. To add to these, a struggle with AMERICA—at Hitler's bidding—would seem the height of unwisdom.

However, so far as AMEIRCA is concerned, JAPAN undoubtedly looks upon her as an implacable enemy. There is considerable trade rivalry between the two countries and JAPAN is firmly persuaded that her industrial development and commercial enterprises will be seriously retarded by American competition. The Japanese are a keen and determined people, but so are the Americans, who have the added advanatage of almost unlimited man-power and economic resources. Nor is the rivalry between the two countries is merely economic or commercial; there is an underlying conflict of ideals. The Americans are nothing if not democratic, while the Japanese have an unshakeable faith in the divine right of kings which may at best yield place to a belief in the divine right of Dictators. JAPAN has always gone to GERMANY for her models. Her constitution is a copy *mutatis mutandis* of the German consitutions, and her military methods are Prussian. In fact, sabre-rattling army men, *à la Boche*, are constantly swaggering about the streets of TOKYO and HAKODATE, to the intense annoyance of the civilian population. Hence a *rapprochement* between AMERICA and JAPAN is not easy to bring about, the only reasonable chance of its achievement seeming to lie in a Japanese reconciliation with BRITAIN,

for whom a very large proportion of the Japanese have a sincere respect. As BRITAIN would doubtless encourage any such gesture, a settlement might be reached without resort to the arbitrament of war.

At the present moment, however, the position is one of extreme tension, for AMERICA is in grim earnest and is determined to give BRITAIN all the help that she can, while Japanese truculence towards BRITAIN is anything but encouraging.

JAPAN is now apparently trying to conciliate the Netherlanders in the Dutch EAST INDIES A Japanese delegation recently visited BATAVIA and the head of the delegation, Mr. Yoshizawa, is said to have remarked that he was proposing to open trade negotiations with a view to securing *mutual* trade benefits. His tone was markedly friendly but he had to plead for a long view in preference to a short-sighted policy, presumably because his text was so at variance with the immediate expansionist enthusiasm of the Japanese military caste now in political power.

As we have seen, she has not had any luck with RUSSIA. The Soviet know what they are about, they know how deeply JAPAN is involved in CHINA and they don't want to risk their future safety in return for present minor appeasements. A powerful JAPAN, as JAPAN would be if she were to win all round, would be permanent grit in the Russian eye.

Nor is the outlook brighter for JAPAN in regard to CHINA. The Japanese Premier's statement reported to-day is revealing.

"Although the Sino-Japanese conflict has entered on its fifth year, there is little prospect of settlement.

"The fighting services are not responsible. It is nobody's responsibility but mine.

"I feel unpardonable before the Throne and the entire nation that already millions of yen have been spent and thousands of soldiers sacrificed.

"I am determined to exert myself to the utmost in overcoming this situation as my last service to the State."

There is a plaintiveness in the speech very similar to the self-reproach of Wolsey in his last moments. But Prince Konoye is perhaps in better case; he can still retrieve his position, and save his country from getting more and more deeply involved in a hopeless struggle, by cutting his losses and abandoning CHINA.

On the other hand we cannot afford to neglect the other side of the picture. JAPAN is at the moment very warlike and very strong. She has the third strongest navy in the world and she has a strong air-arm. Her people have a tradition of unquestioning obedience which is an asset in times of emergency, and they have swallowed large quantities of intoxicating dope about New Order and Destiny. But there are cracks in the structure. Her national debt is colossal, and goes on mounting with fearful rapidity. The people are taxed to their utmost capacity; exports have fallen off; financially she is almost on the brink of ruin. JAPAN is poor in coal, oils and other commodities necessary for war purposes. Hence the "China incident"—and JAPAN was quite surprised that CHINA shouid defend herself! "This is a wicked animal; when attacked it defends itself" was her reaction to Chinese resistance, and she has tried to make CHINA pay ever since—and failed utterly in that effort. Again, the new political situation in which the Diet is opposed by the Army, is one of the most disturbing factors of the present situation. The constitution of 1889 appears to have been practically abrogated though the Diet still formally meets to do nothing in particular except complain of the disease in the body politic.

Two other countries who, forgetful of old friendships, signed up with the Germans, are in dire trouble—ITALY, prostrate in the dust, RUMANIA, writhing in anarchy—and the examples cannot be encouraging to the Japanese who, as a people, are long-headed, whatever a youthful generation of Totalitarian hotheads may represent them to be. There are still many observers who would be surprised to see JAPAN play Hitler's game by opening or inviting hostilities with AMERICA, particularly with RUSSIA, so ominously watchful in the north.

APPENDIX.

JAPAN'S GRAVE HOUR
MEANING OF SUCCESSIVE TOKYO CONFERENCES
DISSATISFACTION OVER CHINA CAMPAIGN

*In an Editorial headed "Japan's Grave Hour" the **Times** writes :—*

CONFERENCE succeeds conference in Tokyo. On the 16th Prince Konoye, the Prime Minister, was in close consultation with the Foreign Minister and the Navy and the Army Chief and he is holding a series of meetings, before the Parliamentary session opens, with representatives of both the Houses and leaders of public opinion. His general purpose is undoubtedly to allay widespread misgiving about the results, at home as well as abroad, of the Japanese policy during the last few years. But he hardly needed this unusual procedure and the recent explicit warning of the Minister of War to make the Japanese people realize that **they face a grave emergency in 1941.** The appalling casualty figures, now becoming known in Tokyo, must blazon in the eyes of even the most of purblind in Japan **the terrible cost of the attempt to conquer China, which remains unconquered after nearly four years of war.** It can be no consolation to the mass of the Japanese—who are not a malignant race—to be told that the Chinese are estimated to have lost 3,500,000 dead. Whereas the Chinese have fallen in defence of the integrity, and indeed for the survival of, the land they love, the casualties of the Japanese have been incurred to no effective purpose.

Nor do they represent all the loss which the militaristic policy of the last six years has involved. The cost in money is mounting to such an extent as to cast doubt upon the future solvency of the country. According to the budget estimates, issued last month, ordinary expenditure will this year amount to **half as much again as the entire revenue and this excludes the cost of the China campaign**, one year of which alone demands as much as the total ordinary revenue. Granted the special factors to be taken into account in the economy of Japan, the financial outlook is very grave indeed. Moreover, the policy of militarism involves in Japan, as everywhere else, another loss—the loss of liberty at home.

The liberal traditions, which the Japanese statesmen of a previous generation had carefully built up are going by the board and to the **loss of life and income is being added the loss of civil rights.** No wonder the Japanese public are in a questioning mood and the question they are probably asking most insistently is "Does militarism pay?"

They cannot fail to see that the policy of soldiers and sailors is having just as bad an influence in external as in home affairs, for relations with the United States—the greatest foreign issue for Japan—are repidly deteriorating.

Marshal Chiang Kai Shek still commands the support of the majority of the Chinese nation and only the obsequious modern mandarins of the type of Mr. Wang Ching Wei would agree for an instant that Japan was opposed to conquest and exploitation of the East Asiatic countries—another of Mr. Matsuoka's paradoxical declarations. The Japanese who face the facts know that their successive Governments in recent years have tried by every device of violence and ingratiation to dominate China from the north to the south and that the Chinese resist their domination. And the War Minister has still to warn the country that "Nothing justifies the expectation of an early peace". Colonel Mabutsi, Chief of the Press Department in the War Office, who recently returned to Tokyo from a tour of China, confessed that "there is little hope at present that Chiang Kai Shek's régime will perish." The problem in China, he said, was only becoming more involved and he admitted that the Chinese Leader at Chungking had around him the best and the most patriotic elements in the Republic. The Generalissimo himself has issued a stirring message to his nation for the New Year declaring that 1941 would be "the final and decisive year" in the struggle against Japanese aggression. China "peace loving by nature"—as he truthfully added—"will make a great contribution in future to world peace". **The present policy of the Japanese Government seems to be leading the country into financial ruin and there is dissension between militarists and politicians at home and abroad over an extension of the war**, which already strains national resources to an almost unbearable degree. The United States have been truculently bidden to refrain from helping Britain, while at the same time Japan is doing what she can to help Germany. President Roosevelt is, of course, not in the least affected by the Japanese threats and the United States continue to assist both Britain and China.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

23—1—41 to 29—1--41.

A BLACK WEEK FOR ITALY.

THE FALL OF DERNA.—The B. B. C. announced last night the fall of DERNA and the march of the Imperial Army further to the west, towards BENGHAZI.

The General Wavell's march on LIBYA which commenced on December 9 has proved a series of successes; from MERSA MATRUH to SIDI EL BARRANI, from SIDI EL BARRANI to SOLLUM, FORT CAPUZZO, BARDIA, TOBRUK and now DERNA. Not a moment was wasted. The speed with which the Army moved from point to point has been amazing. These successes now provide a long coast line from which Mediterranean traffic can be controlled, the German raiders punished and ITALY itself attacked when the moment is ripe. They also mark the beginning of the end of CYRAENAICA as an Italian possession.

In *ERITREA*, TESSENOI, SABERDERAT, CHERU, AILOTA, UMM HAGAR and BISKIA have been captured and the Imperial Forces, chiefly Indian, are closing round AGORDAT, the terminus of the only railway in ERITREA and the main point of communication with the MASSAWA on the Red Sea.

In the *ABYSSINIAN* sector, there was an engagement south-east of Lake Tsana in which the Patriot troops attacked and killed some 200 white Italian troops. South African troops and Abyssinian irregulars have jointly captured EL YIBO and EL SARDU and British pressure continues over the whole METEMMA area. NEGHELLI has been attacked and severe damage inflicted from the air on the Italian aerodrome and machines lying there.

ADDIS ABABA is in a state of siege. As murders of Italians are frequent, no Italian ventures more than a few miles from the capital and the place is crowded with families which have sought refuge from the outlying settlements. Supplies are running short—especially of sugar, tobacco, milk and macaroni.

Emperor Hailé Selassié's re-entry into ABYSSINIA at the head of his new Patroit army was a simple and austere ceremony. Replying to the address of welcome, he thanked BRITAIN for the sympathy shown him during his five years of exile and for the help he was now receiving towards training and equipping his arms.

On the *KENYA* front, the drive into ABYSSINIA progresses steadily. No Italian is left on KENYA soil.

In *ALBANIA*, the Italian counter-offensives, though violent, have all failed and the result achieved so far by General Caballero, the new Commander, has been only 'a copious shedding of blood.' The R. A. F. has successfully bombarded ELBASAN. The Greeks are reported to be within 5 miles of VALONA.

ITALY.—For ITALY it has proved a black week altogether. At home, riots are reported to have broken out in MILAN and TURIN which had to be quelled with the aid of the German troops. Though the later reports describe the incident as of a 'minor character,' there is no doubt that there have been many deaths. The Italian secret police and the German Gestapo are said to be busy making arrests.

RUMANIA.

Puzzling and conflicting as are the reports of the happenings in RUMANIA, it is now possible to present some sort of connected account of these tangled events. The trouble started with an attempted *coup d'ètat* by the extreme Legionaries in BUCHAREST; 30,000 workers and peasants, as well as the garrisons in MOLDAVIA and CRAIOVA joined and marched upon BUCHAREST. The rebels were headed by M. Horia Sima and Gen. Petroviscescu, both ministers, who claimed that General Antonescu, the Prime Minister, was not a true friend of the Legionary. The Prime Minister charged M. Sima with misappropriation of the Legionary funds.

When the rebels got out of hand, the army went into action. Wednesday night at BUCHAREST was a night of horror, with looting and burning on one side and machine-gunning on the other. Horrible massacres took place at BRASOV, BRAILA, PLOESTI, GALATZ, BUZAU and BENLAD. With the hounding out of the rebels, the insurrection subsided after 5 days. M. Sima, originally reported as having been arrested, is now definitely known to have escaped.

FRANCE.

A National Council consisting of technicians and experts has been set up temporarily at VICHY to advise Marshal Pétain. The members are nominated, not elected.

By an Act of Constitution high officials in VICHY have been made directly responsible to the Chief of State, on the Fuehrer principle of direct responsibility.

A Madrid newspaper mentions the opening of direct rail communication between GERMANY and SPAIN, *via* unoccupied FRANCE.

GERMANY is reported to be asking VICHY for the use of the FRENCH bases in TUNISIA, from which to attack BRITAIN in AFRICA.

GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

Holland.—The 'New Order' which now prevails in HOLLAND has been described as 'New Plunder'. The Dutch are now compelled to bear the expenses of the invasion and also to maintain the army of occupation. Looting of food has resulted in grave scarcity. 100,000 Dutch have been taken to GERMANY for forced labour. A German Chamber of Commerce has been set up to plunder raw materials for the GERMAN industries.

Belgium.—According to a statement issued by Mr. Hoover, major food supplies will be 'non-existent' in BELGIUM in a month. Even now the actual food ration is no more than one third of that in BRITAIN or GERMANY.

Norway.—Efforts made by Quisling authorities to recruit army workers for GERMANY from NORWAY has failed. OSLO, the capital which should have contributed a thousand men for its share, could hardly furnish two hundred.

FRENCH INDO-CHINA AND THAILAND.

Conflicting reports arrive regarding the situation in this region. According to certain messages the disputants have agreed to JAPAN'S mediation, and armistice talks will take place off SAIGON in a Japanese warship. According to other reports SISOPHON continues to be bombarded and the Thai High Command refuses to withdraw from any area it has conquered.

AMERICA—LEASE AND LEND BILL.

After taking evidence for a fortnight the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives has now concluded its hearing and according to the latest news by Radio has accepted the bill, by a thumping majority and with very slight modifications. Among the witnesses examined in the second week there were dissenting voices.

Mr. Norman Thomas described the bill as authorising war in the name of peace, and as approving a dictatorship in the name of democracy.

Mr. Charles McNary favoured aid to BRITAIN but objected to the extraordinary powers to be assigned to the President.

General Hugh S. Johnson considered the bill as amounting to an offensive alliance with BRITAIN, which, if concluded, would lead AMERICA into the war on the north or west coast of AFRICA.

Col. Charles Lindbergh was in sympathy with the British people, though not with their aims.

Mr. William Bullitt stated that if the British Navy were eliminated an invasion of the Western Hemisphere was certain, and that as the UNITED STATES was unprepared at present it must 'buy time to prepare'.

THE NEW AMBASSADOR.

Lord Halifax's departure from ENGLAND to take up his new office, his voyage, and the reception he was accorded on his arrival in AMERICA were all worthy of the man and the cause he represents. Mr. Churchill journeyed with him from LONDON and saw him off, the *King George V* bore him across the waters; on arrival Mr. Roosevelt, breaking all tradition and accompanied by Mrs. Roosevelt, Col. Frank Knox and other high dignitories, came to ANAPOLIS to welcome him. After a cruise in the President's yacht in Chesapeake Bay, they came ashore and heading a long procession motored to WASHINGTON together, where, at the British Embassy, President Roosevelt bade Lord and Lady Halifax good night. 'The heart of America', stated the *Washington Post*, 'was with President Roosevelt when he greeted Lord Halifax.' Lord Halifax's arrival was 'in the manner of a Hollywood thriller' wrote the *New York Herald Tribune*.

The UNITED STATES has now lifted the 'moral' embargo, placed in December 2, 1939 on the export of aeroplanes and air equipment to the Soviet Union. As a gesture of friendliness, along with the establishment of an American Consulate at VLADIVOSTOK, this is calculated to improve Soviet-American relations.

BRITAIN.

Industrial Registration. In opening the debate on Industrial Conscription Mr. Bevin, Labour Minister, stated that the supply of aircraft which originated as a small stream had now become a river which would soon reach full flow. With American aid to supplement it we should soon establish air supremacy. In spite of shorter days and continuous air raiding the winter output of machines was no less than the summer production.

The British Navy was now doing single-handed, what five navies did in the last war, and naval construction and repair were therefore naturally the first concern of the Nation. Still, mercantile construction was not neglected and the tonnage completed in the last six months was higher by 30 per cent. than in the previous period.

Meanwhile, British exports for December had also exceeded November figures by £ 24,400,000, notwithstanding loss of markets in Central EUROPE, the supply of materials to the Nile Army, and the disturbance of trade in Eastern Mediterranean.

Voluntary labour has thus worked wonders, but in order to meet the present exigency it was further necessary to tap unused resources and make the fullest use of available labour. For example, more women would hereafter be employed and no employee would be permitted to leave vital labour without Government permission. Short time will be stopped and inefficient management replaced. There is to be a registration of men and women by age groups.

Far from cavilling at the Minister's pronouncement, the debate which ensued showed that the mind of the country was that the Government had done 'too little' so far; and that greater regimentation of property and persons would be welcome, as being necessary to ensure success. It was also suggested that the new measures should supplement the voluntary labour already available, without damping the Nation's temper, and that there should be more propaganda, especially among women, who should be taught to be more war-minded.

Winding up the debate, Mr. Churchill emphasized the present necessity for increasing man-power. At the root of the question lay the size of the British Army, some 4 million strong—in BRITAIN alone—including the Home Guards. When this strength was settled in 1939 a vast series of factories and establishments were set afoot to provide the Army with everything required. The bulk of these new plants were only just coming to production and many were still structurally incomplete. A great number of new factories would rise to production level in six months, when for the first time increased demands would be made on man and woman power. While the Army was growing and the Air Force expanding it was the munition factories that were short of labour. Hence the necessity for these new measures which were calculated to enable the nation to enter fully into its war stride.

The debate concluded without any vote being taken.

THE DEATH OF GENERAL JOHN METAXAS.

The death occurred on Wednesday of General Metaxas, the soldier-statesman-patriot of GREECE. As Prime Minister and Dictator he took the decision four months ago to oppose ITALY at a moment critical in European history. His decision helped to turn the tide of war and win back for GREECE her ancient greatness. His name will shine for ever in the history of his country and the world, as an inspiration to small nations with a will to maintain their honour.

AIR RAIDS.

There was practically no air-raid over Britain for nine days in succession. The R. A. F. raids of the week are chronicled in the appended statements.

R. A. F. Raids over GERMANY, GERMAN-occupied EUROPE, ITALY, ITALIAN AFRICA and ALBANIA.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
20—1—41. (Monday.)			
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Anti-aircraft batteries and other defences in TOBRUK.	...	Battered; 2 anti-aircraft batteries silenced.
	Barracks and other military targets at DERNA.	...	Big fires started.
	EL GUBBI.		
	A power station and a large factory at MASSAWA.	...	...
	The Railway station at AISHA ...	...	The track straddled.
	Troop-laden lorries near ADAD ...	...	Heavy casualties.
	Camps and Forts at another place ...	...	Fires started.
	Motor transport on the road between CHERU and BISKIA (ERITREA).	...	Considerable damage caused.
	Enemy planes on the ground at JAVELLO.	...	Direct hit on bombers
21—1—41. (Tuesday.)			
	ALBANIA.		
	Military objectives at ELBASAN ...	...	Heavily damaged.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	TOBRUK ...	1 plane.	...
22—1—41. (Wednesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	Aerodromes, Aircraft on the ground, convoys on the roads and Troops engaged on construction work in enemy-occupied Northern FRANCE	... No loss.	Fires started everywhere; heavy damage caused. Many planes on the ground destroyed.
	Targets in the DUSSELDORF area ...	...	...
	SICILY.		
	Aerodromes at AUGUSTA, SYRACUSE and CATANIA.	...	Fires started; heavy damage.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
22—1—41.	**(Wednesday.)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Barracks at APOLLONIA ...	...	...
	Continuous patrol covering the army's advance.	1 plane	1 plane.
	ADAD and **ASSAB** ...	No loss	...
	Aerodrome at YAVELLO (ABYSSINIA)	...	3 planes destroyed.
23—1—41.	**(Thursday.)**		
	ALBANIA.		
	Military buildings at BERATI ...	...	Damaged.
	Motor transport concentrations on the road between BERATI and KELCYRE.	...	Heavy damage.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Barracks and Aerodrome at APOLLONIA.	...	Explosions and fires started.
	Buildings at DERNA ...	...	...
	Aircraft on the ground at MARAUA ...	...	Many planes damaged.
	Reconnaissance over East AFRICA ...	...	...
	Administration buildings and Aerodrome at SCIASCIAMANNA.	...	4 planes completely destroyed and many damaged.
	Buildings at NEGHELLI ...	...	...
	Aerial fight over CHERU ...	...	1 plane shot down and many damaged
	The aerodrome at MARITZA (RHODES Island).	...	Fires started.
24—1—41.	**(Friday).**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Patrol and Reconnaissance over the English Channel and the FRENCH coast.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
24—1—41.	**(Friday.)**—*cont.*		
	NIGHT :—		
	The Submarine base at LORIENT ...	No loss.	Heavily damaged.
	SICILY.		
	Italian bases in SICILY ...	...	Fires seen from MALTA.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Aircraft on the ground at MAGRUM ...	...	Many planes damaged.
	The railway line and station at BISKIA (ERITREA).	...	...
	A motor transport west of BISKIA ...	...	Heavy damage.
	Aircraft on the ground and motor transport vehicles at AGORDAT.	...	...
	The railway line between BISKIA and AGORDAT.	...	Damaged.
	Enemy ports at UMM ...	...	Fires started.
	The railway station at KEREN ...	No loss.	...
25—1—41.	**(Saturday.)**		
	ALBANIA.		
	A military camp at BULSA (near ELBASAN).	...	Directly hit.
	An Italian advance supply depót in ALBANIA.	...	Fires started.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The landing ground at MARAUA ...	...	...
	The aerodrome at BERKA ...	...	...
	An Italian bomber on the ground at JARABUB.	...	Destroyed.
26—1—41.	**(Sunday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	Industrial targets at HANOVER ...	No loss.	3 planes.
	ALBANIA.		
	Italian communications between TEPELENI and VALONA.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
26—1—41.	**(Sunday.)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Motor transport on the road near TELLENA.	...	...
	Aerodrome at BARCE (LIBYA) ...	...	Aircraft on the ground destroyed.
	Landing ground at DERNA ...	1 plane.	...
	A bridge at TELLENA ...	...	...
	Motor transport at BARENTU and UMMHAGAR.	...	Directly hit.
	Reconnaissance and Patrol over the MARTUBA-EL MECHILI Area.	No loss.	6 planes.

Enemy Raids over BRITAIN, BRITISH Territories, GREECE and ALBANIA (under Greek occupation).

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Allied aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
21—1—41.	**(Tuesday).**		
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	LONDON Outskirts; **some points** in the HOME and Eastern COUNTIES.	...	Some houses damaged. Very few casualties.
	A coastal town in East ANGLIA ...	...	...
	NIGHT :—		
	No raid throughout BRITAIN ...	...	...
	GREECE.		
	PREVIZA, VOLOS and SALONIKA ...	...	Some buildings destroyed; a few civilian casualties.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Allied aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
22—1—41. (Wednesday).			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	KENT coast, East Riding (YORKSHIRE).	2 planes.	Little damage and no casualties.
NIGHT :—			
	A few scattered parts of the Eastern Counties.	...	...
	GREECE.		
	The rural area of JANINA	... ...	No damage and no casualties.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA	... ...	No damage.
23—1—41. (Thursday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air activity	... ...	...
24—1—41. (Friday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN ...	...	...
25—1—41. (Saturday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	Two points in East ANGLIA	... ...	Slight damage and few casualties.
NIGHT :—			
	A coastal town in WESTERN ENGLAND.	...	Little damage.
	ALBANIA and GREECE.		
	GREEK positions in the whole of the northern lines.	3 planes.	...
	SALONIKA	... 3 planes.	...

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Allied aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
26—1—41. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	North-East Coast ...	...	No damage or casualties.
NIGHT :—			
	No air activity. ...	...	...
27—1—41. (Monday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air raid over any part of BRITAIN.	...	...

SIDE LIGHTS.

The machine's the thing... ! In every war that I can remember, excepting what Totalitarians would perhaps call 'the present incident', debaters of the chances would decide that the advantage must ultimately lie with the big battalions—not necessarily with those countries with the largest trained armies at the outbreak, but with those with the greatest resources of man-power.

The incalculable influence on human fortunes of the invention of the internal combustion engine has become a common place, and for years we have been aware of the increased mechanisation of modern armies. But I doubt if anyone really thought that that surely DAMNABLE invention would positively give the lie to so old and universal an axiom of military theory as that, given approximate equality of physique, patriotism and education in military equipment, the side with the greater resources in man-power was the one to back.

Yet that is what we must deduce from this war. Mr. Churchill tells the Americans that we don't want men, but machines. Mr. Roosevelt, and many of his colleagues constantly stress the same point.

In six weeks in NORTH AFRICA we wipe out of the war a lakh of trained soldiers under a world-renowned strategist and administrator with a total loss of 1,100 men, and both victors and vanquished explain the incredible fact as being due to the overwhelming power of one side's 'machines'.

I do not remember how many men on our side were lost in the first sixteen months of the last war on all fronts and in all elements, but it must have been hundreds of thousands. Yet Mr. Churchill yesterday told the nation that our TOTAL losses so far have been under 60,000 (of which, alas, half were civilians.)

The consequence is that the numbers of millions of men still in reserve on both sides must be far higher than at any stage in any previous war, and that the conscription of those reserves into factories is a more important task than their conscription into regiments.

New Values. In short values have changed radically. GERMANY'S 85 millions, plus her allies, are no longer likely to beat BRITAIN'S 55 millions, plus the Dominions, but minus her first ally. Victory will go to the side that can supply, in the greatest

quantities and with the greatest regularity, undreds of millions of bombs and shells, millions of tanks, armoured cars and lorries, hundreds of thousands of aeroplanes, thousands of small and medium sized ships, naval and mercantile, hundreds of aerodromes and scores of capital ships. AND at the same time feed and protect the millions of men who must work 80 hour weeks to produce such astronomical requirements.

Well, which side is the more likely to fill the bill? BRITAIN, with the whole of AMERICA for an arsenal, plus the production power of her Empire and the mastery of the seas over which to gather it in—or the Axis, with its mathematically-worked-out peak-production already reached, with the seas barred to her, and with her immediate neighbours already pillaged up to the hilt?

Not more than one guess allowed!

A Caution. The Aid-to-Britain Bill, though included as a factor in the foregoing paragraph, is so far only a draft Bill, NOT an Act. It will be hotly debated in Congress; it may be amended; it MIGHT even be thrown out! The next few weeks are critical, but it seems more than likely that Americans on the whole realise that the times are just as critical for them as they are for us—and that is a good augury for Mr. Roosevelt's famous 'message' coming to fruition.

The Mercurial Italian. It would be difficult to find a European nation more moody than the Italian, a people whose tails go so high over their back or so low between their legs, under the slightest impulse. It has often been said that if Mussolini had been born a Briton he would not have been heard of, except occasionally at Bow Street police court as a chronic disturber of the peace. Yet, with his frothy speeches and athletic photographs, with his "strong, silent" jowl and his tightly corseted but rebellious figure, he might almost have had himself elected to the Pantheon of Ancient ROME by at least a considerable proportion of the Italian nation.

That was the "tails up" time—and how correspondingly bitter must be the reflections of that wretched nation now! TARANTO—ALBANIA—LIBYA, and now...... an invitation by their erstwhile hero-leader to the traditionally most-feared and most-hated power in EUROPE to "come into my garden and see me eat worms!" Surely the news of Mussolini's action in asking for the *Luftwaffe* to man Italian air-bases (if indeed that is all he has asked for!) must be to this mercurial nation the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual disgrace.

Implications. Whatever the feelings of Italians, the implications of this latest Hun invasion, for the rest of us, are decidedly intriguing.

(*a*) Hitler is not a man who throws good money after bad! For weeks after the Italian *debacles* had begun, the German press was allowed to speculate quite calmly as to whether Italy would "collapse like a pack of cards." A sort of 'let them stew in their own juice' attitude. How are we to account for Hitler's fresh interest other than by assuming that his strong bid for FRANCE, as an alternative ally, was *not successful?*

(*b*) Failing the use of the French Fleet and French Mediterranean ports, the Germans are now to take over control of one of the three fighting forces in ITALY (to begin with?). In other words, Hitler fears that without such action, ITALY will be lost altogether.

(*c*) Hitler has always presumed that ITALY would fit into his conception of a New Order in Europe. He has had clever agents working there to this end for years, through the newspapers, in the clubs and associations, and in the factories. He would much have preferred this unobtrusive hold over any feelings of independence, or criticisms of Axis policy, but now that the Italians find the hated Germans in their midst it looks as though Hitler must face problems similar to those which are growing in acuteness in the other 'occupied' countries.

(*d*) It is at least open to grave doubt whether the help he is now trying to give to ITALY is not already too late! The *Luftwaffe* has been mainly trained for use in co-operation with ground troops. The absence of such troops or of terrain on which to use them will seriously compromise the *Luftwaffe's* effectiveness when up against the superior machines and personnel of the British, with their new and most convenient bases in NORTH AFRICA, and in the isles of GREECE.

N. B.—GERMANY is not yet at war with GREECE.

(*e*) From practical evidence so far available, the Bomber *versus* Battleship controversy still distinctly favours the latter.

(*f*) Hitler's pet military bogey is a 'War on Two Fronts'—yet he is forced to assay it.

Those Balkans. An intelligent enquirer, whom we should like to have satisfied, asked us the other day what we thought about RUMANIA. We waved a vague hand and referred him to the

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first para in this feature last week wherein we advised the utmost caution about news received from 'neutral' centres—for that is still where most of the titbits about the Balkan countries come from.

With Hitler in a pother as to which lump of turf in the surrounding bog is the firmest, it is inevitable that speculation about the Near East should be vivid, so perhaps we had better indicate what we can of the essence of that complicated puzzle. We suggest no answers—at the moment.

There is a host of alarmist rumours about the strength of the German forces in the north. The Germans themselves have taken care to put those about. As far as we can ascertain, these amount to perhaps 100,000 men in RUMANIA.

They are useful, no doubt, for intimidation, and might be used against BULGARIA—or TURKEY—OR RUSSIA! But the weather is against their being used yet, perhaps for another month.

There is also the circumstantial rumour, carefully expedited by Dr. Goebbels, that RUSSIA has agreed to a German march on BULGARIA.

If this were true, it would facilitate attacks on either GREECE (with whom GERMANY is not yet at war) or on TURKEY (with a view to a southward drive through the LEVANT to EGYPT.)

These are the considerations—we can't find any others—which excite the panic-mongers.

Now let's look at the other side.

There is no doubt at all that BULGARIA has lately taken an increasingly independent line. She may have done it by playing off RUSSIA against GERMANY, or she may have brandished her growing reconciliation with TURKEY as a sort of red rag to the bull, hoping to give her ancient friend RUSSIA a chance at the infuriated animal's flank. In fact she seems to derive strength from the probability that neither of these powers would care to see her entirely *en rapport* with a TURKEY strongly backed by BRITAIN and her Navy.

The Turks seem to be doing their utmost to re-establish friendly relations with RUSSIA. There is no doubt which of those two monstrous land-powers, is the more popular in TURKEY.

Do you notice how often in this rather vague dissertation, RUSSIA comes in? Then you should mark that :—

Moscow Radio has denied that she has ever given Hitler leave to invade BULGARIA.

She is openly taking increasing interest in the Balkans—even perhaps in RUMANIA.

She would definitely rather see BULGARIA in the Turkish camp than the German, and

She is taking kindly to Turkish advances, and though she gives no sign of any affection for BRITAIN, she knows perfectly well that TURKEY and we are pretty closely associated.

Well, now you know all we do!

Another Pact! 'The truthful Doctor' would probably counter our scepticisms by pointing to the new Russo-German Trade Pact of January 10th, to show the complete communion of interests between RUSSIA and GERMANY. But.........

(*a*) If this is the progeny resulting from Molotov's visit to BERLIN, the period of gestation has been pretty slow, and the British press and radio don't think much of the infant's lustiness.

(*b*) Trade, to be trade, has to be carried, and while RUSSIA's transport system has been the joke of the century, GERMANY's own is none too free and rapid while the R. A. F. do their job so neatly.

(*c*) If your stomach is empty, you don't sell the only nourishment you can find to some one else. Both GERMANY and RUSSIA have enormous needs. Roughly speaking it is only surpluses which they can trade to each other. What are these surpluses? Wheat or oil from RUSSIA?! Or machines and arms and bombs from GERMANY at THIS time?! There is no detailed account of the terms available yet. Well, perhaps they're wise!

BRITAIN SPEAKS.

A B.B.C. Broadcast "Destinies" by Leslie Howard.

WE heard a good deal during the autumn about Hitler's plan for a New Order in Europe. It sounded very attractive, as Goebbels' innumerable mouthpieces described it. Everything in the garden, according to them, was lovely,—if only the wicked British and the wicked Canadians, and the wicked Australians, and New Zealanders, and South Africans, and, of course, the unspeakable Greeks, would not keep trying to dig up the lawns and steal the flowers.

To those more familiar with the facts than the Nazi publicist is supposed to be, the new order looks more like a graveyard than a garden! There is certainly order in a graveyard, but it's not the kind of order we want during our lifetime. And, as for the 'new', Hitler's idea of Government is as old as the cave man's. It is, in fact, based on that most ancient of moralities once described by a poet as, "The good old rule, a simple plan, that they shall take who have the power, and they shall keep who can."

However, since the disclosure in the *New York Times* and in *Life*, since the beginning of December, of an uncensored sketch of the New Order, obligingly provided by the German Minister of Economics, we have heard rather less about this Nazi millennium. But the idea, too, has a certain interest, after all. And, one remarkable thing about this particular idea is the way in which, in one form or another, it has cropped up in the German mentality over and over again. **It stamps the German race as incorrigible megalomaniacs,** incorrigible after two hundred years. Authors on this side of the Atlantic have sometimes written of Americans as though they were a nation of megalomaniacs. Perhaps the desire of many citizens of the United States to possess, or at least to share in the possession of the biggest this, and the longest that, and the tallest something else, up to a certain extent supports the argument. But, for that matter, I've known Canadians to show a not unnatural pride in the size of their wheatfields, and Australians to talk a good deal about the extent of their sheep-runs,—and why shouldn't they? These little conceits are human and natural. **But, you don't hear Canadians of British descent, affirming that, compared with them, the French are** an inferior race, or Americans proclaiming that it is their destiny—and, they are right—to dominate the world. **That sort of an obsession is the unenvied monopoly of the Germans.** It was up to the Germans to believe, and to assert, that they were superior to all the rest of the

human race. It was a German King, Frederick the Great, who invented the "Blitzkrieg", against weak and unoffending neighbours. It was a German philosopher, Neitschze, who resolved the theory of the superman and his followers, down to Rosenberg, who passes for the philosopher in Hitler's Germany, and who applied it to his fellow-countrymen. It was imperial Germany that fitted to the noble tune of Haydn, the pompous words, "Deutschland, Deutschland, uber alles",—"Germany over everything." **And, it is the Nazis who now proclaim to an incredulous world that the Germans are the "Herrenvolk"—the race of lords and masters**, by whom and for whose benefit, the rest of mankind are to be reduced to slavery. And the word, slavery, as this Minister of Economics carefully explains, is not meant to be figurative, but literal. It is the Germans who are the true megalomaniacs—you might say, the only megalomaniacs. They do not change. From Frederick the Great to Hitler is a long time. In those two centuries science has grown from an infant to a giant, nations have risen and fallen, arts have flourished and decayed, and during all that time, mankind has been feeling its way forward in the realm of politics. The art of government, and particularly the system of democracy, has been developed and advanced. The aim of all good and wise men has been to reach a perfect system of what President Lincoln defined in immortal words, as "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." We still have far to travel on that road, but all nations, but one, have made some progress towards the common goal. They have made mistakes, they have sometimes lost their way; each of them has, at times, lagged, or turned aside. Only the Germans have made no progress at all—**only the Germans still stand where they stood two hundred years ago; and only the Germans could not merely acknowledge, but glory in that shameful fact**.

Well, there you have the self-styled "Herrenvolk"—the master race. Perhaps we may properly accept the theory so vehemently insisted upon by Mussolini and Hitler, that nations have destinies which they must fulfil. The only thing radically wrong with their application of it is their insistence that they know what it is and propose to carry it out. Surely your destiny is what happened to you; you have no choice in the matter. You cannot have any duty to fulfil, for, if it *is* a destiny, it will fulfil itself, whatever you do. But, until it has done so, you can't really be certain it was your destiny. I hope I'm not being too metaphysical, but it seems to me that no one can know his destiny in advance. He can only look back upon his life and say, "Such and such was my destiny."

Egypt had a destiny to foster agriculture and astronomy and architecture, in the days when western civilisation had scarcely

begun. Greece had a destiny, to develop art and literature and philosophy and mathematics; and, as we may recall with a special gratitude to-day, to invent democracy. Rome had a destiny, not so great as her two predecessors, but of value to the world all the same. Hers was to perfect the machinery of administrative Government, and of a system of law which became the model for all subsequent ones. And the smaller, younger nations had their destinies, too. It has been the mission of France and Italy to lead the world in art and literature for hundreds of years. Norway had a destiny, too—to infuse the virile energy of her people into all the rest of Western Europe—to plant invigorating colonies of her stock in Western Germany, in Northern France, in Scotland and in England. It was a Norman, that is to say, a North dynasty that captured the throne of England. The Norman colonized Iceland and Greenland, and discovered America more than five hundred years before Columbus. And Spain and Portugal had their destinies, too—to spread their culture and languages and their religious faith over half the new world.

So we could go on, tracing the destinies of various branches of the human race. **Germany has contributed greatly to music and science, but her world destiny seems to be frustration and destruction.**

What can we say the destiny of our own life has been? This is a time when we should be taking stock, as all of our civilisation is challenged and weighed in the balance, and this is a fitting moment to ask ourselves what we have achieved. What can we point to as our record? How have we justified our existence, our growth? It is a question that concerns all the English-speaking nations,—the people of the United States no less than those of the British Commonwealth, for all of them sprung from a common stock, and yet we are not one stock, but a combination of many—Anglo-Saxon, Norse, Celtic, Iberian, and possibly others join in the race we call British. To this day, at least three languages besides English are spoken in the British Isles, and there are traces in England itself of still more. We are a blend—a blend of blends, for the Englishman is not of the same ancestry as the Scotsman, or the Welshman, or the Irishman. Yet, this variegated problem of breeds has developed into something incredibly comprehensive—as industrious as the German, as wide-wandering as the Norse, yet as attached to its native soil as the French, and as stubbornly enduring of all the vicissitudes as the Slavonic or the Jewish race. We are a queer people in many ways; we've a contradictory character—not naturally warlike, but surprisingly tough in war; not naturally artistic, but producing some of the greatest literature in innumerable pages of native tongue; not efficient or business-like, but in a worldly way, generally successful, averse to

showing our feelings, yet, in fact, intensely emotional; not very pious but fundamentally religious; we're always changing our mind. No wonder that other races fail to understand us, and call us mad or treacherous, when we are merely being true to our inconsequential character. With these great gifts and strange inconsistencies, what have we done? Or, to come back to my original question, what was our destiny? Well, that question could be answered in many ways, and would be answered differently by our friends and our enemies. So, incontestably, we have spread, we have chosen to populate five continents, we have shown that white man and coloured can live peaceably alongside each other. We have shown, notably in the United States, that our stock can absorb and blend with many other stocks, and grow and flourish all the stronger with the infusion of strange blood. We have carried English to every corner of the world, where it has had the strangest adventures, sometimes enriching itself with new words from many other tongues, sometimes adapting itself to such peculiar forms as that pigeon-English expression for an envelope, "trouser-long letter."

William Holt reminded you in a talk the other night how English has, in parts of the world, become the common tongue, the "lingua franca", of people of all races—their natural, and indeed, their only way of talking to each other.

But we have taken more than the English language around the world. We have taken something of several older civilisations, to whose heritage we have succeeded. We have carried on the Roman ideal of settled law, and of just and uncorrupt administration. We have developed the Greek ideal of democracy, and rebuilt it on a better foundation than slavery; and we have carried on their tradition that our people shall express themselves in their own way, and not at the dictates of the Government. We have accepted the French ideal of the family unit, of the home and hearth as the centre of Great Britain's national life. We have honoured courage and perseverance and loyalty as the old Norseman did, and we have spread our Christian faith which sprang from Judaism, so that wherever our pioneers have penetrated, the names of such men as Livingston in Africa, and Williams in New Zealand, stand higher than all.

Like all peoples, we have made some mistakes, and committed some crimes. No countries have ever been free of such things; and the time has not come, and is not likely to come, when we can sit down and say that our house is in order, our work is finished, and our institutions perfect. But facing the latest and most formidable of our enemies, we can say that we have built something worthy of our descent. We can look back upon our record and not be ashamed. One thing we have

contributed to the civilisation of the world which is new and our own, something of which the Germans have never known the meaning—something called tolerance. The English-speaking nations have planted that flower of civilisation wherever they have taken up their Government. It is one form of that freedom for which the Greeks fought at Marathon, Bruce his Scots at Bannockburn, Elizabeth and the English in the Channel, the French at Verdun, and the American colonists at Saratoga—the notion that the worship of God shall be free, that speech and writing shall be free, that national assemblies may contain opposition, that racial or political minorities live in peace, that neither creed, nor colour, nor class shall bar a man from the privileges of a citizen. We believe all these things to be good and right and just. That faith we English-speaking peoples will maintain as long as we are free nations. To teach that faith to the world, has been, above all else, our destiny.

R. A. F.'s Work in the Middle East.

by

Wing Commander L. V. Fraser.

(*The first of a series of articles by a well known air commentator.*)

THE carefully prepared British plans which trapped the cream of Graziani's army in Libya and resulted in the Italians being driven back hundreds of miles are now made plain as well as the splendid effort of the R. A. F. which smashed and battered the way for the victorious troops.

Italy was coaxed into Egypt. That is now clear. She spent nearly two months digging herself in thoroughly. Huge perimeter camps were planned, concrete bases laid down for heavy guns, a magnificent metalled road fifty miles long built, water supplies assured. It took the R. A. F. just six days of accurate, intense bombing to sweep it all aside and make possible the military onslaught. In one week more than 300 sorties were made, yet there were only four R. A. F. aircraft casualties. Enemy concentrations were reduced and dispersed and no effort by the *Regia Aeronautica* to prevent British aircraft from continuing their sustained attacks was effective.

Between December 9 and 16 enemy troops were bombed and sprayed with machine-gun fire no fewer than 56 times, dozens of heavy bombing attacks were carried out on aerodromes, barracks and fuel dumps. At Sofafi alone a concentration of 1,500 motor transport vehicles was reduced to a

scrap heap. Since June 11, when Italy entered the war, **Libya has been raided on 614 occasions.** A colossal figure taking into account the critically low strength of the R. A. F. in the Middle East at the outbreak of hostilities.

During the first week of war against Italy 57 raids were recorded. This series culminated on January 2 with the most punishing attack of the war on this sector, when 44 bombers going over in waves dropped nearly 50 tons of bombs on Bardia.

There has been nothing haphazard about the air war in the Western Desert. Little has been left to chance and the R. A. F.'s strength has been husbanded. When the German hordes prepared the way for the offensive in France **their losses were more than 50 aircraft daily** and the blood of German pilots was indiscriminately spilt. In the Western Desert the R. A. F. has employed brain as well as power. **During the week of most intensive fighting its total aircraft losses were 15. The Italians lost 97.** In every phase of aerial activity R. A. F. fliers have proved their superiority over the enemy. From December 9 to December 13, 35 Italian fighters were destroyed in dogfights. In these combats only six R. A. F. aircraft were lost, three of the pilots being saved.

At the same time the effort in other regions under the Middle East Command has been sustained. Italian East Africa has been raided 481 times by R. A. F. aircraft based on the Sudan, 366 times by aircraft from Aden and 215 times by aircraft from Kenya. In these regions the R. A. F. has been splendidly supported by South African and Rhodesian squadrons.

Italian bases in Albania have been raided 93 times from Greece and the squadrons at Malta have attacked Albania, Italy and Libya 44 times.

This account of the air effort excludes the good work repeatedly carried out by the Fleet Air Arm. It also disregards hundreds of reconnaissance flights made in co-operation with military strategists.

It must be remembered that the task of British airmen in the Middle East is arduous. Malaria, storms, fierce tropical hurricanes and extremes of temperature add to ordinary navigation problems in the desert. The British flier in the Middle East Command is made of stern stuff. **The Germans will have a lot to learn about flying under tropical conditions if they attempt to reinforce the much battered squadrons of the** *Regia Aeronautica*. The R. A. F has had much experience of air fighting in desert country which has proved of immense value. It is altogether different from flying in Western Europe and British pilots and ground crews are all trained for the job.

The war in Libya is being fought purely in desert country. Wind of a little over ten miles an hour is enough to lift the dust. In the air it looks as though lots of bonfires were being lighted as the dust swirls up and begins to form a haze. **This may rise as high as 10,000 feet and reduces visibility to practically nothing. It needs an experienced pilot to get back to his base when landmarks and landing ground have all vanished in dust.** When mixed with oil this dust has much the same effect as the carborundum paste used for grinding-in valves. It gets into bearings and cylinders with the most devastating effect, which quickly causes excessive wear and tear in engines. That increases the work of maintenance crews, the quantity of spares required and the reserve of aircraft necessary to keep squadrons in fighting trim. The R. A. F. was, and is, fully prepared for this.

UNDERSTANDING THE ENEMY.
HOW THE NAZI MIND WORKS.
INTEREST IN BEING POWERFUL.
NEW APPROACH TO AN OLD PHILOSOPHY.

By

W. A. Sinclair.

[A picture of the mind af Nazi, of the characteristics that make him what he is, of the motives prompting his peculiar conduct. Professor Sinclair is Lecturer in Philosophy at Edinburgh University.]

THE Nazis say that they are creating a new civilisation in Europe. This is mostly humbug, but it shows that they have some idea of their own of what 'civilisation' is. It shows that they have an outlook on life, and notions about what is worth while in life—which are somehow different from those of other people, like ourselves, who are civilised in the old sense.

Of course, **a great deal of what the Nazis do is not based on any consciously-held outlook at all. A large proportion of Nazis are of the type who enjoy smashing up things and people; they behave as they do because they like it.** Still, among the Nazis there are large numbers of other types, who do act on a consciously-held principle or outlook of some sort.

This outlook of theirs is uncommonly difficult for people like us to understand, at least to begin with. I certainly found it difficult, as I expect you have, too, but here is what I came to think about it in the end.

I think the reason why it is so difficult for us to understand the Nazis is that their outlook and their notions of what is worth while in life are so far away from ours. It needs a real effort of imagination to understand them. You see, most of our notions about such matters are so familiar to all of us that we never need to talk about them. For instance, people in this country think that kindliness and consideration for others are good qualities. Clergymen preach sermons pointing out to us that we are not kindly and considerate enough; **but people don't spend their time discussing whether men ought to be kindly and considerate. People agree about that.**

It's just on points like that, points we never need to discuss, that the Nazis think altogether differently.

To take that particular example, **they don't want to be kindly and considerate. It isn't merely that they aren't kindly and considerate. They don't want to be. They think that if you are kindly and considerate, then you are showing yourself to be a poor, third-rate sort of human being.**

What they want to be is the sort of man they regard as first-rate and superior, who shows his superiority by domineering over other people weaker than himself, by ordering them about, and, when he feels like it, knocking them about. The Nazi outlook, which lies behind that way of behaving, is that **the great thing in life is a violent and unrestrained letting-loose of oneself, without any regard for other people or for the common laws of morality.** Just as a man's body feels better, when he has had hard physical exercise, so, according to the Nazis, a man's whole personality feels better when he lets himself go at the expense of other people and enjoys the sensation of having other people in his power.

This general outlook shows itself in many different ways, in many departments of life. These would all be interesting to follow up, but that isn't necessary for our present purpose, because in practice **the whole thing boils down to the view that exerting force and power over others is what matters most in human life.** As far as politics is concerned, this is the one fundamental point about the Nazis' outlook.

TO THE NAZIS, MONEY MEANS ARMAMENTS.

I remember a young Nazi student who came to this country about three years ago to study engineering. He wasn't at all like most of the talkative young Nazis who used to come over here; he seldom spoke of anything political. But one day (when he happened to be staying with friends of mine) his hostess said to him: 'Why are you in Germany spending so much money on an army and an air force? Nobody is going to attack you—we aren't; Poland isn't; France isn't. Why should you spend your money on armaments?'

The young Nazi's answer—remember this was in peacetime, three years ago—the young Nazi's answer was: 'Well, what else should we spend our money on?'

This didn't seem to her to make sense, and she said so and asked him to explain. He did explain, and the explanation he gave was pretty much what I have just been saying, about 'power' as the great thing in life.

Mind you, the Nazis don't mean that exerting power is desirable because of the wealth and comfort it brings. To think they meant that would be to misunderstand them completely. It is **the sense of enjoying power over others** that they are concerned about, not any material gain their power might bring, or any ease or comfort. As a matter of fact, they don't greatly want ease or comfort or the homely, human pleasures, and to them it is no sacrifice to do without such things. They are willing to do without ease and comfort and a great deal more, to get the one thing they really want; just as **a school bully doesn't bully little boys because of any material advantage he is going to get out of it, but because he enjoys bullying. He feels better after it; he feels he is really alive.**

That is the outlook of all Nazified Germans. That is why Field-Marshal Goering meant literally what he said when he said that the Germans under Nazi rule prefer guns to butter. They genuinely prefer spending their time and their money and their lives in trying to get this sense of the power of Germany over other nations. They are enjoying that feeling at the present moment in all the countries they have overrun.

That is why the Germans think of international relations as a continuous conflict between Germany and all other nations, who are either her enemies now, or may be later. **The fact that this conflict is carried on sometimes by open warfare, sometimes only by trade and intrigue, is from the Geman point of view only a difference of technique. The conflict itself, they think, must go on in one form or another until the whole world belongs to them.** That is why they sing their song which says that 'to-day Germany belongs to the Nazis: to-morrow the whole world will'.

That is why Hitler is always saying that he wants peace. Of course he wants peace, for by 'peace', he means 'peace under Nazi rule.'

KICKING A MAN WHEN HE'S DOWN.

All this is so different from what we think that it's very difficult for us to realise that at the present moment this actually is the outlook of vast numbers of Germans. Unfortunately, it is. Of course, it is equally difficult for the Nazis to understand us. For instance, we don't respect an arrogant, overbearing character. We think that 'you mustn't kick a man when he's down'. This simply bewilders the Nazis. They think: 'What on earth is

the use of getting your enemy down at all if you aren't going to kick him?' Further, they do not respect us because we hold such views. On the contrary, they think we are mugs; just as professional criminals are said to think that honest folk are mugs and are there to be preyed upon.

All this comes out clearly in the things the Nazis do. You can see it even more explicitly in the books they write. Those Nazi books all run on the same lines, and Hitler's own book shows up the matter as well as any. *Mein Kampf*, you know, is an extremely interesting book, for it lets you see inside Hitler's mind. It lets you see what he really cares about.

There are long passages in it about his career, which are rather dull; but most of the book is a detailed, practical discussion of Hitler's methods of getting power, and then getting more power. He discusses, for instance, how to select his subordinate leaders in the way that will be most useful to him; and—and this is illuminating—how to make sure that none of those subordinate leaders ever gets enough power to oust Hitler from the first place. Questions like this are discussed in great detail and at great length; without, of course, any reference to honesty, or decency, or anything like that.

Mein Kampf is a long book. There are 782 pages of it. But in all these 782 pages, which discuss how to get power, how to keep power, how to get still more power, **there is not one page in which Hitler shows any interest in what would be worth doing with all that power once he had got it**. It is 'being powerful' which interests him, not the uses to which his power might be put; if you were to ask him why he wants to be powerful, he would think it a foolish question, just as any normal man would think it foolish if you asked him why he wanted to be healthy.

This concentrated desire for power, for domineering over other people, is not the only side of the Nazis' philosophy, but it is certainly the fundamental one—and for practical purposes it is the only one that matters. Unless we understand this, we can never understand them.

There's nothing new in this. The Nazis, of course, say there is. They philosophise at length about 'creating a new civilisation' and about 'a new order in Europe appropriate to the spirit of the young and vigorous totalitarian nations' and so on. But all those so-called philosophies, when you examine them, turn out to be either muddle-headed chit-chat, or else deliberate humbug. Many of them are both.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE BRUTE.

Nazism is not a new philosophy. It is merely the present-day expression in political terms, of an attitude to life which has been held by brutal men in every age. What is new—the one thing that's new—is that the brutal men of this age have modern science to help them.

Men of that type of character and that outlook crop up in varying numbers from time to time in every race. Keeping them down is one of the essentials of civilisation—and that means keeping them down by force, for force is the only influence they respect or even understand.

Normally they are kept down, or are at any rate restricted within limits; but there have been times at every stage of history when (through negligence or some other reason) they have been allowed to get dangerously out of hand. When that has happened, the peaceable men have had hurriedly to turn aside from their usual peacetime occupations, and beat off the attack. They have had to speed up their neglected defences and rush all their energies into overcoming the danger. This is what is happening again now.

HOW THE TURKS FEEL.

I

IF WE ARE OBLIGED TO FIGHT IT WILL NOT BE OUR FAULT.

(*From the* "*Aksham*", *Istanbul*, *of the 5th November, 1940 by Nedj. Sadak.*)

SINCE the beginning of hostilities Turkey has decided to keep out of the war. This attitude is of no account to anyone and does not prevent her from being in good relationship with all the states. The National Chief has clearly pointed out this in his recent speech; he has, in addition, sworn that Turkey will not let the belligerents come into his land, sea or air. The fact that the Chief, whose policy is loyalty and sincerity, shows this attitude once more at such a moment, has very great importance. We have arrived at such a state of war that one is suspicious of each non-belligerent who now awaits the end that has been fixed for it. Thus spoke the Chief, " The heroic resistance of England to the assault to which she has been subjected has drawn the war towards a new phase and the war, under new pretexts, has been extended to a new sector ". That involuntarily brought war to the door, into Greece. But once again Germany and Italy repeated their desire to carry the war into the Balkans. In addition they accused England of

intriguing to bring the Balkans into the turmoil. It is true then that the Axis powers hope to be able to occupy England and to oblige her to make peace. Once England was beaten, the Balkans could have been culled just like ripe fruit. But they have not occupied England and her resistance gets stronger every day and the Axis occupation of her becomes nothing but a dream.

In face of this difficult situation and owing to the fact that there is no possibility of beating England directly, the Axis have begun to search for new back-stair routes The Reich has occupied Rumania, and Italy is going to throw herself upon Greece. Whatever is the ultimate aim that the Axis is pursuing, one fact stands out clear; the Axis has not hesitated for a single moment to stir up and set alight the Balkan countries. One can thus understand that when the Axis has found it necessary to put a new plan into action, neither the word given, nor the assurance renewed, nor neutrality, nor non-belligerency is of any value to it. The territorial integrity or independence of states and liberty of peoples are things which can be easily sacrificed when the aims of war of the Axis group are at stake. In order to arrive at this end the Axis employs with complete indifference, threats and the force of arms. Look what she has done to Rumania and Greece.

In face of the actual situation the only step that Turkey takes is to be ready for war. Complications may arise through attacks on Greece and may bring the war to us far more quickly than one could believe possible. The National Chief has given his directions; our definite decision is to take into consideration every sort of sacrifice. The profound repercussion caused in the country by the National Chief's speech shows that the country is prepared for new heroisms. When presently the Government finds the occasion serious enough to face all eventualities, they will find the country united as one block and animated by an unshaken confidence.

The day that we enter the war it will not be our fault.

II

FRIENDSHIP THAT HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY NEW TIES.

(*From the " Vatan ", Istanbul, of 7—12—40 by Ahmet Emin Yalman*).

There are nations which are destined to be and to remain friends with each other. Geographic factors, identity of vital interests, and the necessity of co-operation against external perils and pressure bind the destinies of such nations together at every step.

The friendship between us and Britain is of this natural kind. Moreover both the English and the Turks are born gentlemen. Each understand the other easily and the more this understanding increases, the more they like each other.

This friendship has withstood the severest test. We know that war engenders hatred. It is only natural that the men who hide themselves in trenches for the purpose of killing and wounding one another by the hundreds and thousands, should feel hatred towards one another. But such has not been the case with the British and the Turks. They fought for months at Gallipoli, but finally each parted feeling a profound respect and liking for the other.

If even a contact of this kind creates such feelings of good fellowship, it is madness for the two nations not to follow now the course which their hearts dictate.

What a pity it is that nations do not always act logically. There have been from time to time, coolness, hostility, and misunderstanding between us and Britain. Why ? First, because the place which we call the world has not so far been able to rid itself of anarchy and instability. Nations were obliged to follow a policy dictated, not by the needs of their chief aims, but by the incidents of the moment.

Secondly, the friendship of Turkey became the subject of party politics. When one of the parties sought our friendship, the other thought it natural that they should be hostile to us. Party zeal caused everything about us to be misrepresented to the Englishmen belonging to the great Liberal Party; actions have been taken that were dictated solely by prejudice.

On the other hand, here in Turkey, the solicitude of the Ottoman sultans for the interests and position of their dynasty, resulted in national interests being left in the background. The sultans who saw that friendship with England necessitated a parliamentary régime in Turkey, preferred, for their own pleasure and advantage, to take refuge in alliances with Germany or even with Tzarist Russia.

At last a day came when both sides opened their eyes and saw the necessity of co-operation in order to protect themselves against lawlessness in the world. There have been such moments during the present war when the side that broke the law seemed to be completely triumphant, but even then neither the mutual respect nor the confidence of the British and the Turks was lost for one moment. They never wavered in their common course and cause.

Such rare and valuable friendship must not be left to chance, every relation between the two countries should be strengthened and welded.

The Anglo-Turkish Trade Agreement is a valuable step in this direction. The temporary interruption of commercial relations between Britain and Turkey was the main reason for the partial loss of contact and abeyance of the discovery of the need of friendship.

By this Agreement the foundation of active and permanent economic relations is laid down, not only between Turkey and the British Isles, but also between Turkey and the countries that compose the British Empire. It will now be possible for us to use our credits in London to buy goods from India Australia and Canada.

The British newspapers have understood and expressed very clearly the vast significance of the new Trade Agreement. They may rest assured that this significance is fully appreciated over here also.

We have no doubt that the day will come when it will seem a patriotic gesture to the peoples of both countries to buy Turkish goods in Britain and British goods in Turkey.

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION IN 1940.
PROGRESS WITH NEW BATTLESHIPS.
FIVE UP-TO-DATE DREADNOUGHTS.
SCHEDULE FOR 1941.

by

Francis McMurtrie in The Engineer (Weekly).

OF the nine **battleships** building for the Royal Navy at the end of 1939 two were due for completion last year. Three more ships of the *King George V* class with a displacement of 35,000 tons, speed of over 30 knots and main armament of ten 14-inch guns, were scheduled for 1941, an extremely useful squadron of five up-to-date battleships. **[The King George V has just conveyed Lord Halifax to America**. Ed.]. In 1939 there were laid down four bigger battleships whose displacement will be in the region of 40,000 tons and armed with 16-inch guns. It is possible to give these capital ships an exceptionally high speed through the reduction of boiler weights by about 15 per cent. and by the adoption of quadruple turrets. The 14-inch guns of the *King George V* have an effective range greater than that of the 15-inch guns mounted on earlier ships as measured by the

perforation of armour ; also their rate of fire is more rapid. Also **recently completed** is the reconstruction of the battleships *Queen Elizabeth* and *Valiant*, more efficient fighting ships than any enemies they are likely to meet.

The four **Aircraft Carriers** of 23,000 tons, due for commission in 1940, of which the *Illustrious* has already taken a prominent share in the war, are slightly improved editions of the *Ark Royal*. Further development will follow in 1942 with the *Implacable* and *Indefatigable*.

Quite a formidable squadron of **Cruisers must have been completed last year**, five of 8,000 tons designed displacement, with a speed of 33 knots and an armament of twelve 6-inch and eight 4-inch (anti-aircraft) guns and seven of 5,450 tons, 33 knots and an armament of two 5·25-inch guns. Undoubtedly many more cruisers are under construction.

Four fast **Minelayers** of 2,650 tons laid down in the early part of 1939 should be approaching completion. Sixteen of the *Lightning* class of 1,920 tons and eight of the *Javelin* class of 1,690 tons were building in 1939 and some may be at sea.

It may be expected that in the course of 1941 deliveries of **Destroyers** will become numerous and frequent. Meanwhile the 50 destroyers acquired from the United States Navy are certain of a busy time. All will have had the elevation of their guns increased against attacking aircraft.

Nine **Submarines** were under construction when the war began. Twenty vessels of about 900 tons of the *Hunt* class **must have been delivered by now.** Four slower escort vessels of the *Black Swan* class have doubtless passed into service.

The number of **Motor torpedo** boats built in 1940 is probably considerable. By now 20 fleet **Minesweepers** of the *Bangor* class built under the 1939 programme must be operating and afloat.

Other vessels include **Depôt Ships** and 56 **Patrol Vessels** of the whaler type.

The Royal Australian Navy has completed two sloops and has launched several fleet minesweepers. In the Royal Canadian Navy two destroyers, 34 minesweepers, 54 corvettes and 24 motor torpedo boats represent the war programme published.

COSMOPOLITANA

1. " If Hitler invades England he will be chased back so fast that he will not know what hit him."

(*U. S. War Correspondent, Quentin Reynolds, January, 18*).

2. " The way to keep out of war is by giving all aid to Britain."

(*Mr. Wendell Wilkie, Washington, January 21*).

3. " Lives of nations are determined not by count of years but by the lifetime of the human spirit."

(*Mr. Roosevelt, Washington, January, 21*).

4. " The outstanding lesson of the war is that ships can still command the sea."

(*Admiral Lord Chatfield, London, January, 21*).

5. " We may have to knock the Italians about in Italy before we knock the Italians out of the war."

(*Gen. Sturdee, Australian C-in-C. Melbourne, January, 24*).

6. " We, like our forefathers, will yield to no master but God."

(*Mr. William Bullitt, Washington, January, 25*).

7. " It was an agreement between two men, not between two nations."

(*Captured Italian Officer on Axis collaboration, Alexandria, Late January*).

8. " The battle of 1941 will be a battle of the seas."

(*Mr. Ronald Cross, British Minister of Shipping, London, January, 26*).

9. " They're a grand bunch of fellows."

(*Mr. Wendell Wilkie, on the British Trade Union leaders, London, January, 30*).

10. " The American nation has the right to send her ships anywhere in the world—and to shoot hell out of anyone who tries to stop them."

(*Senator Glass, commenting on Hitler's Sportspalatz speech, Washington, January, 30*).

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period January 13—19, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

AXIS MULTIPLICATION-TABLES.

It would have been asking too much of Dr. Goebbels and his Italian imitators to expect them to stick to the facts when "describing" the *Luftwaffe's* attack on a British convoy and its naval escort in the Mediterranean on January 10. Certainly Berlin and Rome were less hysterical than usual, but that was doubtless due to the sobering knowledge that at least 12 Axis war-planes—many of them Junkers dive-bombers—were destroyed during the engagement, and between 30 and 40 during a subsequent R. A. F. raid on the enemy's lair at Catania, in Sicily.

Needless to say, these losses were not mentioned by the German or Italian wireless, whose reports confined themselves chiefly to accusing the British Government of trying to minimize its own losses.

The plain facts of the attack are that the British cruiser *Southampton* was set on fire and had later to be sunk by other Royal Navy units, while the aircraft-carrier *Illustrious* and the destroyer *Gallant* were damaged but reached port; that the important convoy concerned reached Greece safely; and that not a single British plane was lost.

On January 15, the Berlin radio quoted what it described as "interesting details" from the *Giornale d' Italia* of the attack, in the course of which it was stated that the *Gallant* (by that time safely in harbour) had "obviously been sunk". Two days later, in the face of the British Admiralty's factual account of the whole affair, Berlin asserted—without even attempting to produce any evidence—that "eight other British warships (besides the *Southampton*) were hit and damaged". Some seven hours later the Germans, possibly feeling they had been too modest in their claims, announced that "14 British vessels have certainly been hit and a few of them have been sunk".

PIRATES!

A few days ago the British armed merchant ship *Asturias* was reported to be shadowing the Europe-bound food ship *Mendoza* in south Atlantic waters. 'The British pirates" said Berlin (January 17), "trained their guns on the *Mendoza*, whose only crime was to transport a few foodstuffs for France—the country which has lost all in the defence of Britain".

A would-be cunning piece of propaganda this, combining two themes:—

(i) British blockade is starving the innocent non-combatants of Europe, and

(ii) A re-hash of the old accusation, "Britain will fight to the last Frenchman."

Goebbels omitted one important word from his report—"*Occupied.*" The *Mendoza* was bound for a port in Occupied France—the country which has lost all in the support of the German Army of Occupation.

Four hundred million francs a day is the price France pays for German "protection." The *Mendoza's* cargo would have fed German troops, not French civilians.

NAZI QUANDARY.

Goebbels cannot quite decide how to tackle the problem of American aid to Britain. First of all his radio stations belittled the quality of American-made aircraft, but when these machines proved themselves in action they had to adopt another line—that the planes would be sunk by U-boats before they reached Britain. Then came the news that British pilots were ferrying bombers across the Atlantic, each pilot making two trips every week.

So Goebbels has had to think up another story. He now says the United States are getting ready to bleed Britain white with post-war reparations, and attaches a sinister significance to the visits of Mr. Harry Hopkins and Mr. Wendell Willkie to Britain.

ALL'S FAIR.........

Berlin announces with pride (January 17) that "this year's Spring Fair in Prague will take place from the 16th to the 23rd of March. Industrial and commercial circles in the Protectorate have shown a keen interest in the fair and in many instances exhibition space is not adequate for many firms registering."

The exhibitors will, of course, be Germans, not Czechs, and the success of the fair will be the measure of the ruthless efficiency with which the Nazis have exploited the industrial wealth of Czechoslovakia.

NOT AT HOME.

At least 150,000 Czech workmen will be unable to visit the fair. They have been deported to labour camps in the Reich. And those unhappy Czechs who remain to suffer persecution at the hands of their German masters, will find difficulty in paying the entrance fee—even if they want to see this exhibition of their misfortune. Their savings have been confiscated and they are expected to find 2,000 million crowns a year towards the cost of Germany's war.

For nearly two years the Czechs have been subjected to one of the worst tyrannies of history. Yet their spirit is not broken.

Baron von Neurath, Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia is reported to have told German officers and officials in Prague recently, "The spirit of resistance must now be broken." Perhaps the Germans will make this statement the motto of their Spring Fair at Prague.

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

IN POLAND.

The Berlin radio announced on January 14 that everything possible was being done to improve the lot of the Poles. Hitler, however, told the Reichstag on May 17, 1933, that "the mentality of the last century, which thought it possible to turn Poles and Frenchmen into Germans, is foreign to us," and his policy throughout has been that of driving the rightful inhabitants from occupied Poland. By March, 1940, about 700,000 Poles and Jews had been expelled, and this number now exceeds one million. The cultural, social and religious life of the Poles has been practically stamped out. Since the outbreak of war, Polish children in Posen have had only three week's schooling, all schools being reserved for Germans.

Food conditions appear to be worse than in the case of the other occupied countries. In general, the Poles are allowed two-thirds of the rations allotted to the Germans. The German shops are supplied with the food they need and so as a rule are those for the Ukranians, but the shops for Poles and Jews are for weeks on end without either fat, meat, eggs or sugar. Persons of "German race" are issued with a clothing card, which in theory allows an equal amount of clothing to each member of the community. The Polish local authorities are only allowed a small number of such cards.

Warsaw, for example, with a population of 1,000,000, has only 10,000 cards!

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

The German wireless has been jubilant over the new trade agreement between Russia and Germany, and, on January 12, quotes a Russian paper as saying that the Russo-German agreement supported the policy of establishing friendship and maintaining peace.

Herr Hitler, however, proclaims in 'Mein Kampf' that "an alliance which is not for the purpose of waging war has no meaning and no value." The present rulers of Russia, he added, "are blood-stained criminals aud the dregs of humanity."

BRITAIN'S NAVAL LOSSES.

On January 17 the German wireless stated that at the beginning of the war Britain had seven aircraft-carriers, of which Germany had sunk the *Courageous*, and the *Glorious*, and seriously damaged four others.

It is interesting to observe that the Nazis are now moderating their claims, for in spite of the fact that Britain had seven aircraft-carriers at the out-break of war, Dr. Goebbels had by August 31, 1940, managed to sink 10 of them—including, of course, the *Ark Royal*.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai War Information Bureau.

1941—

LECTURE XXIX.

February	1, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Sunday ...	Venkatakulam ...	9.45 a. m.
		Tiruvappur ...	5.00 p. m.
	3, Monday ...	College (B) Tamil ...	10.25 a. m.
		Rani's School ...	10.25 a. m.
		Panayappatti ...	5.30 p. m.
		Annavasal ...	5.30 p. m.
	4, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.25 a. m.
		Kiranur ...	5.30 p. m.
		Odayalippatti ...	5.30 p. m.
	5, Wednesday.	Yembal ...	5.30 p. m.
	6, Thursday ...	Teachers' Association, Pudukkottai.	3.30 p. m.
		Vegupatti ...	5.30 p. m.
		Arimalam ...	5.30 p. m.
	7, Friday ...	C. S. M. School ...	10.00 a. m.

LECTURE XXX.

February	8, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	9, Sunday ...	Kottaikkadu ...	9.45 a. m.
		Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.	5.00 p. m.
		Poovarasakudi ...	5.30 p. m.
	11, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.25 a. m.
		Rani's School ...	10.25 a. m.
		Nachandupatti ...	5.30 p. m.
		Tirumayyam ...	5.30 p. m.
		Karaiyur ...	5.30 p. m.
	12, Wednesday.	College (B) Tamil ...	10.25 a. m.
		Karambakkudi ...	5.30 p. m.
	13, Thursday ...	Kudumiamalai ...	5.30 p. m.
		Kulipirai ...	5.30 p. m.
	14, Friday ...	C. S. M. School ...	10,00 a. m.

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